

Clinical Presentation

- 80% of infected people have no symptoms
- 20% of infected people have a febrile illness lasting 14 days
- About 1:150 people who are antibody positive will develop **neuroinvasive disease**: meningitis, encephalitis, polio-like acute flaccid paralysis, muscle weakness, ataxia, and seizures
- People over 50 years old are 10 times more likely to have neuroinvasive disease
- People over 80 years old are 43 times as likely to have neuroinvasive disease
- Mortality from neuroinvasive disease is about 9%

Differential Diagnosis

- Infections causing meningoencephalitis include enterovirus, SLE, WEE, herpes simplex, mycoplasma, coccidioidomycosis, tuberculosis, and bacterial disease

Who Should Be Tested for WNV?

- Patients with acute neurologic disease (aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis, or any unexplained neurologic disease of recent onset)
- Any febrile patient at the discretion of the patient's physician

Laboratory Testing

- Order **WNV IgM** in blood and/or cerebrospinal fluid
 - ✓ 90% with WNV develop serum IgM by day 8 of fever
 - ✓ 99% with CNS disease will have CSF IgM antibodies on presentation
- Arizona State Lab will test WNV IgM in blood or CSF from hospitalized patients with acute neurologic disease and any serum from a febrile patient at the discretion of the patient's physician.
- If you suspect a mosquito-borne illness in a patient with no travel history outside Arizona, you should consider ordering IgM for both WNV and SLE. If the patient's exposure history supports ordering the **arbovirus encephalitis antibody profile+**, you should be aware that the profile does not include WNV IgM, which needs to be ordered separately.

Treatment

- There is no specific treatment for WNV infection.
- Clinicians may wish to enroll their patients with severe disease in experimental WNV specific therapeutic medication trials.

Report

- Notify your local or county health department of suspected cases of WNV.

For More Information

- Recorded Hotline: **Metro Phoenix** 602-364-4500; **Statewide** 800-314-9243
- ADHS website at www.westnileaz.com
- CDC website at www.cdc.gov/westnile **CDC West Nile Virus Homepage**